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Information Bulletin: Red Willow Dam

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The reservoir elevation of Hugh Butler Lake this morning is 2553.40 feet, content of 5,968 acre-feet. The target elevation is between 2,554 to 2,552 feet in elevation to assure the safety of the downstream areas and structure.

The current release from Red Willow Dam is 20 cfs. The release will be maintained for now to match the inflow and target elevation. It is emphasized that there have been no unusual seeps, leaks or sources of water detected by the current investigations.

Boat Ramp Status--Funding assistance was received for a boat ramp extension at Hugh Butler Lake. Currently, there are no usable boat ramps at the Lake as a result of the reservoir restrictions associated with the dam. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NG&PC) has awarded a contract with BSB Construction from Curtis, NE for a boat ramp extension to the ramp located near the marina area. Construction is currently taking place, and the NG&PC is confident the extension will be completed by Memorial Day.

Reclamation conducted a public meeting on February 18, 2010 to inform the public of current and future activities related to Red Willow Dam. The presentation used at the meeting is available on the website address indicated below.

Reclamation initiated the Corrective Action Study and the evaluation of alternatives to remediate the dam safety issues at Red Willow are ongoing at this time. The study is on schedule.

The downstream channel continues to be monitored as appropriate. No problems are being experienced at the current discharge rate.

The area below the dam remains limited to public access during this time.

Current updates and information are available at: www.usbr.gov/gp/nkao/redwillow/

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